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STATE FOR WHA A/S TOM SHANNON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/24/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFH01: HONDURAN COUP: POLITICAL WRAP-UP 07/24/09

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 647 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, E.O. 12958, 1.4(d)

¶1. (U) Summary: This is another in a series of daily round-ups of political news in the aftermath of the June 28 forcible removal and exile of President Manuel Zelaya from Honduras. End Summary.

Three Branches Analyzing San Jose Proposal

¶2. (U) De facto regime consultant and member of Micheletti's negotiating team Arturo Corrales Alvarez stated publicly that Arias' proposal recognizes several of the constitutional violations Zelaya committed. Corrales spoke positively about the proposal and blamed Zelaya for walking away from the proposal while Micheletti's delegation is consulting with the three branches of government for consideration.

¶3. (U) President of Congress Jose Angel Saavedra spoke positively about Arias' proposal on local television July 24. He stated: "I find (the proposal) brings together in good faith the positions of both parties. On my part I am optimistic." He encouraged the other powers to consider the proposal. Saavedra spoke positively about a government of reconciliation and the truth commission.

¶4. (U) Presidential candidate Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo advised Zelaya and Micheletti July 23 to not abandon dialogue as dialogue is the only way out of this crisis.

July 23 Roadblocks

¶5. (U) According to businesses, July 23 strikes and roadblocks where pro-Zelaya protestors tried to "paralyze" the country resulted in approximately USD 1.5 million in losses. Alejandro Alvarez from the Honduran Chamber of the Construction Industry(CHICO) said this amount corresponded to 5 percent of daily GDP.

Zelaya at the Nicaragua-Honduras Border

¶6. (C) Zelaya gave a press conference July 23 in the evening from Managua and was televised driving his car to Esteli, a town 40 kilometers from the southern border of Honduras. The

afternoon of July 24 Zelaya was televised on CNN near the Nicaragua-Honduras border for nearly three hours. He was accompanied by deposed Foreign Minister Patricia Rodas and was calling upon his supporters to gather at the border and join him as he crossed back into Honduras. Zelaya briefly crossed over the border at Las Manos. A Honduran Army Colonel approached him and informed him that there was an order of arrest for him and that he should refrain from continuing into Honduran territory. Zelaya tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with higher level military commanders, then returned to Nicaragua. CNN showed a large crowd of Zelaya supporters as well as military at the border; however Embassy contacts said that due to roadblocks many Hondurans were not able to reach the border. The de facto government ordered everyone along the border off the streets for a noon to dawn curfew and used tear gas on Zelaya supporters who refused to obey the curfew.

LLORENS